

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the status of the claims to that as indicated below:

Claims 1-25 (canceled)

26. (currently amended) A water conditioner, comprising:

a pipe;

a substantially flat plate extending along a substantial portion of a length of said pipe, said plate having a width substantially equal to an inner diameter of said pipe along an entirety of the length of said plate with said plate being located within said pipe; and,

a plurality of cylindrical posts passing through, and extending, at solely a normal angle from each side of said plate to be adjacent an inner wall of said pipe, said plurality of cylindrical posts being perpendicular to a direction of flow through said pipe for causing water flowing through said pipe to adopt a torturous path through said pipe.

Claim 27 (canceled)

28. (previously presented) The water conditioner according to Claim 26, wherein said plurality of posts are arranged in rows on, or parallel to, a longitudinal axis of said plate.

29. (previously presented) The water conditioner according to Claim 26, further comprising a plurality of substantially longitudinal ribs extending lengthwise along said plate.

30. (previously presented) The water conditioner according to Claim 29, wherein said plurality of substantially longitudinal ribs are regularly displaced from a longitudinal axis of said plate.

31. (previously presented) The water conditioner according to Claim 29, wherein ribs of said plurality of substantially longitudinal ribs adjacent a center area of said plate are higher, or taller, than ribs adjacent an edge of said plate, so that when said plate is located within said pipe, said plurality of substantially longitudinal ribs are located adjacent an inner periphery of said pipe.

32. (previously presented) The water conditioner according to Claim 29, wherein said plurality of substantially longitudinal ribs have a height that is substantially equal to that of adjacent posts of said plurality of posts.

33. (previously presented) The water conditioner according to Claim 26, further comprising means for directing water coming into said water conditioner toward a central portion of said water conditioner.

34. (previously presented) The water conditioner according to Claim 33, wherein said means for directing water coming into said water conditioner is a truncated conical member located in an inlet of said pipe.

35. (previously presented) The water conditioner according to Claim 26, further comprising an EMF applied to said water conditioner.